

REMARKS

This amendment is submitted in response to the Examiner's Action dated November 28, 2007. Applicants have amended the claims to more completely recite novel features of the invention within the independent claims and overcome the claim objections. No new matter has been added, and the amendments place the claims in better condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments to the claims. The discussion/arguments provided below reference the claims in their amended form.

Applicants are not conceding in this application that those independent claims and their dependent claims, as originally presented, are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner. The present claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of subject matter indicated as allowable over the references. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these original claims and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

IN THE DRAWINGS

In the present Office Action, the drawings are objected to. Accordingly, Applicants have reviewed the drawings and provided corrections thereto. Replacement sheets incorporating these amendments are attached to the present amendment. No new matter has been added to the drawings. Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments to the drawings.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

In the present Office Action, Examiner states that Claims 2, 3, 4, and 9-14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Further, the Examiner states that Claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Applicants thank Examiner for the favorable disposition of these claims. Applicants have incorporated allowable subject matter from Claims 2 and 9 (now canceled) into their respective independent claims. The amendments places the independent claims and all dependent claims in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully requests Examiner extend the allowance to include all pending claims.

CLAIMS REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

In the present Office Action, Claim 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Applicants have amended the claims to remove indefiniteness contained therein. The amendment overcomes the §112 rejection, and Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection in light of the amendment.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the present Office Action, Claims 1, 5, 6, 8 and 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Wahlman et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,488,453) in view of *Sharma et al.* (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0064154). Claims 15-17 have been canceled. As noted above, Applicants have incorporated allowable subject matter into the remaining independent claims, rendering the present rejection moot. Applicants' remaining claims are therefore all allowable.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have diligently responded to the Office Action by amending the claims to overcome §112 rejections, and by incorporating allowable subject matter into the remaining independent claims. All claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request issuance of a Notice of Allowance for all claims now pending.

Applicants further respectfully request the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney of record at 512.343.6116 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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